

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 remain in the application.

In the Office Action mailed October 4, 2004, the Examiner allowed claims 1-21, which applicants acknowledge with appreciation. The specification and claims were objected to because of informality in the disclosures.

More particularly, the Abstract was objected to because of excessive length, and other informalities. Applicants have amended the Abstract to conform to the length limitations and to delete the text that was objected to by the Examiner.

The specification was objected to because of informalities on pages 1 and 6. Applicants have corrected the informalities noted by the Examiner on pages 2-3 of the Office Action.

Claims 7 and 9 were objected to because the Examiner suggested using "a uniform font for all claim language." Applicants have reviewed the application as filed and cannot see any non-uniform font usage throughout the claims.

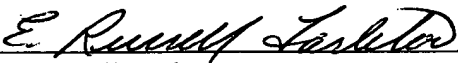
In the Office Action Summary, box 12 was checked that none of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received. Applicants note that the priority document was filed on June 5, 2001. A copy of the PTO date-stamped return receipt postcard is enclosed as evidence that the Patent Office received the certified copy of the priority document. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge receipt of the priority document. In the event it has not been received, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner notify applicants' undersigned representative at (206) 622-4900 and a fax copy will be provided to the Examiner.

In view of the foregoing, applicants respectfully submit that all objections to the specification and claims have now been corrected. In the event the Examiner finds minor informalities that can be resolved by telephone conference, the Examiner is urged to contact applicants' undersigned representative by telephone at (206) 622-4900 in order to expeditiously

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resolve prosecution of this application. Consequently, early and favorable action allowing these claims and passing this case to issuance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosure:
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